



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
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Press Release

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ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CHARGES CHARLESTON CAR DEALER JOE STOCK WITH CONTEMPT

Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., yesterday filed a court petition charging Charleston used car dealer Joe Stock with contempt for violating the final order which settled the State's suit against him on February 28, 2002. The order permanently enjoined Stock from selling motor vehicles to consumers. The order also required Stock to reimburse the State \$907.35 for its expenses in the suit and to furnish the Attorney General's office with clear titles to vehicles purchased by approximately 10 consumers victimized by Stock's deceptive credit practices. The petition filed by the Attorney General's office charges that Stock failed to pay the money or furnish the clear titles within 10 days as ordered by the court settlement.

Attorney General McGraw stated, "The settlement we entered into with Joe Stock gave him 'one last chance' to retain his car dealership license, despite his long history of violating state and federal consumer protection laws and DMV regulations. Regretfully, Mr. Stock has already defaulted on the latest promises he made."

The investigation which preceded the recent settlement with Stock revealed that the DMV had revoked and suspended Stock's used motor vehicle license on numerous occasions during the last several years. The investigation also disclosed that Stock failed to reimburse Century Surety Company and Old Republic Surety Company for approximately \$16,000 in claims paid out on his behalf. Although the companies revoked his bonds, Stock recently obtained a new surety bond for his car dealership through Western Surety Company.

Any persons wishing to file a complaint about a consumer matter or to alert the Attorney General's office about unfair or deceptive practices may do so by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline, 1-800-368-8808, or by printing a complaint form from this web site.

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